AMERICA.

FALL OF CHARLESTON: FURTHER PARTICULARS.

NEW YORK, Feb. 20.—The Confederates evacuated Charleston, South Carolina, on the night of the 17th, after destroying two ironclads and spiking the guns in the fortifications. Six thousand bales of cotton in the upper part of the city were ordered to be burnt, and the flames communicating to a quantity of ammunition stored in the Wilmington Railroad depôt, an explosion took place, spreading the flames in all directions, and killing and injuring many hundred persons. It is estimated that upwards of two-thirds of the city were destroyed.

The evacuation was not discovered by the Federals until the morning of the 18th, when a force from James Island took possession and occupied the deserted fort on that day. General Hunter and General Gilmore, on board of gunboats, cleared up the harbour and landed at the wharf. They found much of the city in the morning and the poorer part of the population, all the richer citizens having left a fortnight or three weeks previously, in anticipation of the evacuation.

The official despatches of General Gilmore report that 200 cannon and a small quantity of ammunition fell into his hands.

On the 19th Sherman moved westward along the Congaree river, and during the night crossed to the north bank above Columbia. Beauregard immediately evacuated the city, retiring towards Charlotte, North Carolina. On the following day Sherman occupied Columbia, but at once passed through and beyond the bulk of his army, sending at the same time a detachment in the direction of Charleston.

At the last accounts, on the 19th, Sherman was at Winnsborough, 20 miles north of Columbia.

MESSAGES FROM GENERAL GRANT.

General Grant has telegraphed to Mr. Stanton the following extracts from the Richmond papers of the 20th:—

"The Confederate War Department received information on the 19th inst. that Sherman's advance was near Winnsborough, 30 miles north of Columbia. Charlotte was thronged with refugees from Columbia, who report that Wheeler's cavalry plundered the city. Up to Tuesday it was unknown whether Columbia would come within the immediate range of Sherman's purposes, consequently the public mind was not prepared for such an early solution of the question.

"The Government, however, removed all the specie, amounting to several millions, and also the dies and plates of the Treasury Department, together with the supplies of the Treasury notes on hand.

"The enemy possessing Branchville, Orangeville, and Kingsville, prevented any movement on the road leading to Charleston.

"At noonday on the 17th Charleston prevented the sending of any more wounded to the city, notwithstanding the city. It remained with free egress to the enemy's fleet which now rode Columbia commander of Sherman's main army, a large portion of which immediately moved up in the direction of Winnsboro. Another portion moved down in the direction of Charleston."

CONFEDERATE PAPERS ON SHERMAN'S ADVANCE.

The *Richmond Enquirer* says:—"The only value of Sherman's advance into South Carolina for the purpose of a general campaign consists in its being a step towards co-operating with Grant in the investment of Richmond. Beauregard may yet lead Sherman such a dance as Grant had Grimaldi over those nine swamp and rivers. If Sherman could have reached Charleston then he had better have staid at Atlanta. Beauregard is inclined to be carrying out a deliberate design, and shows no fear of the end of his campaign.

The *Charleston Mercury* denounces the freeing of slaves. "South Carolina," it says, "entered into secession solely to maintain slavery. Southern independence and slavery must stand or fall together."

The same paper believes that the Federal force which occupied Hilton Head numbered 12,000 men, and that Sherman has only about 60,000 effective men.

Wheeler entered Kingsville, and fortified entrenchments at Midway on the 18th inst., and routed him, driving him in confusion for five miles. The pursuit caused forward of ammunition. A number of prisoners were captured.

FEDERAL AND CONFEDERATE FORCES.

The correspondent of the *Chicago Tribune Journal* says:—Much left unfinished with Grant's 100,000 men, including 10,000 cavalry and 10,000 negroes. The latter would number over Fort Fisher. Lee's forces consisted of his own, combined with those of Beauregard. The same correspondent estimates Beauregard's forces at 35,000, in addition to those picked up in Georgia, and who left for South Carolina, under Cheatham, L. O. Lee, but who would probably be merely left in the lot of March. Lee's forces would be available for Wilmington were it worth while. Lee carried Richmond.

The *N. Y. Herald* says:—Grant's large influx of deserters from rural and Sherman. The Northern papers state that the desertions from Lee's army are very considerable, and that large bodies of deserters are at Washington daily. The exchange of prisoners is actively progressing. Lee urgently calls for a large fatigue party, to be sent to Richmond, to dig trenches. The enemy will not venture to deny Lee reinforcements in his present position of affairs.

AMERICAN TRANSITORY.

On Sunday morning, February 12th, says the *New York Herald* as a sunday affair occurred in Greenpoint, rather in the most pious circumstances, the Rev. Mr. Bailey, a large fine, pastor of the Church of the Ascension Hyacinthus, and the highest man in Greenpoint, Henry Ward Beecher, who, in the pulpit, has proper intimacy between clergy and their flock. Some years since Bailey, who is about twenty-five years of age, set up in the grocery business, and he has a fine office attached, and which is adjoining the residence of Mr. Hill, Mr. Hill is a fair-looking lady, of about thirty years of age. Mr. Hill was often away from home, having lately been engaged in the petroleum business, although still retained his position as sexton of the church. Mrs. Hill visited Bailey's store for groceries and he succeeded in winning her affections. Mr. Hill became informed of the intimacy between the two, was also married, left her husband's bed on the business of disease, and became executed by Jurgen. To hide her shame she pretended to be sick, and to consult doctor, etc., and took them for the purpose of procuring an abortion. She became ill, and believing death to be inevitable, confessed to her husband, telling him that her youngest child, for whom he entertained a very strong love, was not his own, but that of a gentleman. In the meantime, fearing of the illness of Mrs. Hill, and her removal to the hospital, began to fear a discovery of the facts, and the possibility of her exposure to himself. To avoid trouble, he decided to leave Brooklyn and start as one for California. Hill was determined, however that he should not escape, and finally some of his friends interested themselves in the matter, and appointed a meeting for the following Saturday, in order that a compromise might be effected. They met with one or two friends, shortly after midnight on Saturday, or rather early on Sunday morning. During the interview, Jurgen made a written confession to the effect that the statement of the wife was true in every particular. He related in detail the various interviews with the unfortunate woman, and closed by saying that if she should recover from her present illness he was willing to take her and provide for her. At this point the husband jumped up, and in a state of the wildest fury, seized from the grocery and soon came back with a pistol that he had previously left at his house. Seizing Jurgen by the shoulder he fired, the shot taking effect in his head. The bartender and a man named Clarke, Texas, a wholesale liquor dealer from New York, ran from the store for assistance. Meanwhile, Hill, in a state bordering on lunacy, kept pounding the head of the prostrate Jurgen, and before anyone could intervene he made his escape. Advanced intoxicated on Sunday morning, Jurgen, whose brain is shattered, is dying, and it is thought he cannot recover, was removed to the Brooklyn City Hospital. His head was sown about the size of a large pot, presenting a horrible appearance. Hill surrendered himself up to Captain Davis, of the Forty-seventh precinct. The guilty wife, reported dead, is now said to be in a dying condition. To recover, husband in-seen committed by Coroner Barrett to await the result of the injuries of Jurgen.

WHAT IS TO BECOME OF THE BLACKS!

The Hon. Samuel Hooper was answered this question in a speech before the Republicans in Ward, Nine, in Boston, as follows:—

"To those who ask, what is to become of the blacks when slavery is abolished, and the fact so apparent, does not seem that the present free States of the North will be swarm with them, I would recommend the report of Mr. Conway, the superintendent of free labor in Louisiana, recently made to General Canby, on the results of the system. He says, in his report, that there are sixty free schools, with twenty-four hundred scholars, and that the number of blacks employed on plantations is about 35,000, of whom one-fourth are able-class hands, receiving wages at eight dollars per month, besides board, clothing, medical attendance, schools, for their children, and one acre of ground, worth the product of a hundred dollars. The wages paid to the laborers, he says, is, as a whole, more remunerative than the sum paid to farm hands in the North who work by the year.

"At the close of the present year there will be an average of ninety dollar a-piece to each hand, in addition to their little crop of cotton, corn, sugar, potatoes, etc., which will average to each more than a dollar a-piece for sugar. There are, in Louisiana, 15,000 of whom he has no return, and 20,000 in the city of New Orleans, making a total of 80,000 blacks there, who are working for wages under the educational and labor system established by General Banks in Louisiana. Is it at all probable that not of those laborers would be inclined to leave their occupation in the South to go to swamps in addition to their little crop of cotton, corn, sugar, potatoes, etc., which will average to each more than a dollar a-piece for sugar. There are, in Louisiana, 15,000 of whom he has no return, and 20,000 in the city of New Orleans, making a total of 80,000 blacks there, who are working for wages under the educational and labor system established by General Banks in Louisiana. Is it at all probable that not of those laborers would be inclined to leave their occupation in the South to go to swamps in the cold climate of the North, to which they are not accustomed, and to a colder climate from the prejudice existing against them, and to be in competition with others no longer exists in the South, there will be a tide of emigration from here to every one but comes North from there.

LETTER FROM THE WAR.

The following are extracts from a letter written by John S., a working man well known in Nottingham in connection with the Temperance movement:—

Sent Jan. 17, and received in Nottingham, Jan. 31, 1865.

City Point Hospital, Virginia.

Dear Brother,—The heading of this letter may occasion you some surprise. I have spent eight or ten days as an agent of order, under the auspices of the Christian Committee of the United States. This is an organization of Christian men for the relief of sick and wounded soldiers, and is represented from all parts of the Union; most of the officers are Christian men, I went on a visit to his school. Such a sight I never saw before in my life; there are about a thousand of them, and I should say the most of them, the most perfect order is maintained. In the centre of the room is a large fountain which plays in summer, and presents the appearance of a very beautiful object. The room is a perfect square. The superintendent is elevated on a large platform, on which is also a good stand organ, with upwards of 200 sacred tunes. At 9 o'clock every the afternoon these join with the children in singing, perhaps as many as eight or nine lively airs, which are sung with great spirit, and in time, for about of the hour. They sing with all the order of the Union schools at Easter, and seem to be as many in number. I notice the paper of yesterday that Dunlop's salary has been raised from 7,000 to 12,500 dollars per annum. The highest salaries ever paid to a schoolmaster was sold by auction for 52 dollars. This salary troubles outsiders, who never give anything to the cause of humanity; but he gives all his energies and many a hard dollar, and he is let it remain in the hands of the merchants. There is no wonder at his popularity, as he seems with originality of thought, and expression, and a manner which seems to think of. He appreciates the British Israel, and glories in her prestige. It is a growing feeling here that, when the war is settled, the northern Government will demand compensation for the shipping destroyed by ships from British ports. A war with this country would be popular with both parties. I think the cat day will never come: if it should, we shall have to rally under our own Union Jack. But why this talk of war, the Lord only knows. I have never heard a man pray, and praised the hand of the dying soldier and wiped the death-dew from his brow; and have learnt to hate with the bitterness of experience, the horrors of war, in Christ's necessity. The vexed question of what will become of the "niggers" is being solved by the Christian community. Mr. Conway, a young Quaker, who is in charge, I know a party of ordered men (working men) in New York who are already producing free labor cotton on the plantations of Virginia. I was talking with a young man, with whom I am well acquainted, is carrying on the business of these men possess great business aptitude, and have a forecasting intellect. There are leading men among them who know and teach that greatness depends on education and wealth, and the colored folks generally, have taken to the Bible, and I believe that this country will come out of this war humbled and purified, and if so, I believe, so has the enemies within herself of become in the night-sky, people and the face of Europe. I have hope in her, from the fact of her securing the last election. At the close of this there is appointed intelligent and principle and a sack occupation and prosperity astonishing.

The children poor forth their children like rain for the cause of the negro, and the general west, of the committee. Brooklyn has just sent 5,000 dollars to the Sanitary Commission, and I believe that only for the election of churches in the army of the Potomac. And I believe the army will be saved from the demoralisation of the Sabbath, and the Christian nation in this way, unfolding on either side. The other day, while sharpening my pocket-knife—such an one as would cut a man's throat—I was talking to a young man in blade—a man recently from Richmond, said that would cost fifteen dollars there, and he himself had paid fifteen dollars for it. Sugar was selling at the time sometimes five, sometimes ten, dollars per day. A pair of boots cost 100 dollars—*Image or the condition of the nation*. The Bible is the great book that makes the question of slavery. No matter what may have been the policy with which the Government set out at the commencement of the war, there can be no doubt now of the fact that anti-slavery principles, or policy, are those which have the ascendency. Most thoughtful men are for the anti-slavery policy; the negro is alive to the true condition of things, and many with whom I have conversed are of opinion that they are in advance of mere Northern politicians, they understand the true bearings of the question, and have taken it up. I was in the cars through this land for its complicity with slavery. There is no doubt entertained as to the issue of the war. I met an Irishman, who said he was a friend of McClellan had been elected, we should have left the State at once for Canada, or home. The result of the election has put a stop to all talk of war, and there is a than a reign of terror in the hands of the Irish populace had their leaders know this. During the election, every child turned out, and every Irish man, I believe, was back caught the political spirit. Howard said he should go in for like ... as all the Irish went to for McClellan, but he was not. Lincoln's 5,000 majority in the Irish Union Irish City—a short canal, uniting the James with Hardly, and thus avoiding about seven miles of navigation. The Rebels have blown up the James River Canal on the 23rd December, and left what it was to have several shells buried over our heads while there from the effects, and the Rebels are—sacrificing their people—the ... of the ... The shells would be set perhaps 300 feet above us in a short time, time as a plumb-bob, for the current of the James River, and they would be able to get the bottle of the bank to get out of the road of the ... spent of shell. One piece struck right beside me, the ... of an inch from the ... I have seen the ... distributing small things—knives, books, thread and other things—and I have seen the ... expressed on their faces on an elevated spot, there being nothing between us and the rebel guns except the river and a ... I have seen the ... of the ... observed a crowd of men, and directed their guns towards us. We were under him a considerable time, and could not leave, the ... and came over with the ... on the opposite bank. It came within but a few feet of our heads; the ... did not burst. I felt that I should like that shell, and ... I ... the ... the ... of ... and ... the ... and ... the ... the ... the